

2012

Annual Report of the United Church of Christ

Live your faith. Love your community. Heal the world.



Since 1957, the United Church of Christ has been the church of firsts, weaving God’s message of hope and extravagant welcome with action for justice and peace. Together, we live out our faith in ways that effect change in our communities.

Today, we continue to change lives throughout the world. We work alongside more than 200 mission partners. We labor ceaselessly to fight injustice, in the United States and abroad. We instill our vision into our youth and young adults, forging leaders who will imagine new dreams. And we sustain and develop church leaders, pastors, and our local churches to live their faith in exciting new ways.

To that end, the Officers of the United Church of Christ in 2012 set forth a new vision of bold, inspirational goals: to be a bold public voice of Christianity in the service of God’s ever-unfolding mission; to support welcoming, accessible congregations; to help every UCC person be well-equipped to grow in faith through engaged discipleship; and to prepare excellent leaders who reflect the diversity of God’s beloved community.

One project growing out of those goals is “Faith,In,” a “God is still speaking,” mission and evangelism initiative whereby the United Church of Christ engages God’s movement in all the neighborhoods, towns and cities where God calls us to serve. “Faith,in” kicked off during the summer of 2012, making its debut during the National Youth Event at Purdue University. faithinproject.com

The UCC’s Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (LED) program also gained traction in 2012. The flexible, biblically-grounded, non-issue-based justice curriculum and training program held sessions in various settings across the United Church of Christ in order to engage and develop justice leaders for the church and community. The program is working toward having more than 500 churches with 10,000 UCC members trained by April 2015. ucc.org/justice/training

More than ever, our world needs the hopeful message of the Stillspeaking God.

In the United Church of Christ, we proclaim the good news by building upon our core values:

CONTINUING TESTAMENT — We are committed to hearing God’s ancient story anew and afresh. We listen for God’s voice in scripture, music, science, reason, prayer, and rigorous debate. We prepare leaders who are prepared for ministry in the present and future church.

EXTRAVAGANT WELCOME — We insist that God’s table is open, and God’s gift and claim in baptism are irrevocable. We advocate justice for all. We teach that evangelism is mission. We are an ecumenical, interfaith, united and uniting church.

CHANGING LIVES — We teach and preach about the transforming love of Jesus Christ. We believe that churches must be vital places of worship, learning, and service. We proclaim God’s redemptive power in individual lives, political systems, and governmental policies.

“The UCC is looking toward its future, and the coming of a new governance structure. We are excited by the possibilities that lie ahead as we focus our bold public Christian voice and spread the good news of the gospel,” says the Rev. Geoffrey A. Black, UCC general minister and president. “We will continue our prophetic witness, and stand with those seeking justice and the overwhelming peace that comes through Christ’s love.”

No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you’re welcome here.

We are the United Church of Christ.

2012 SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012

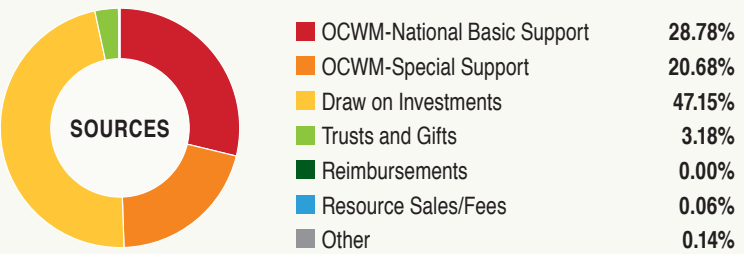
OFFICE OF GENERAL MINISTRIES/EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

OGM provides common services for the national setting of the church; cares for relations with Conferences, other faith traditions and racial/ethnic constituencies in the church; provides platforms for communication and oversees the Stillspeaking Ministry; and assists the national setting in financial development. EC supports General Synod and the UCC’s ecumenical work.



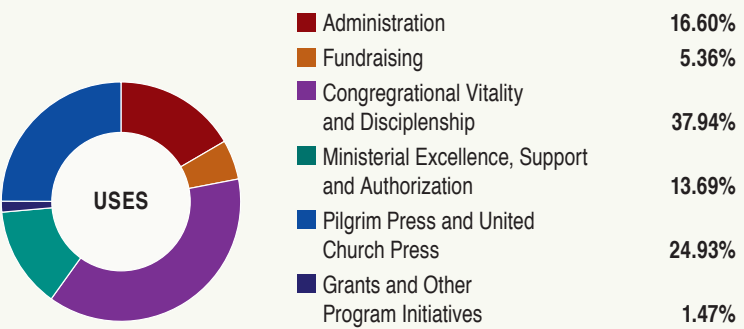
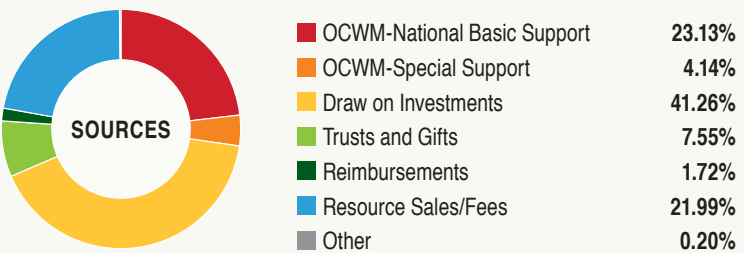
JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES

JWM helps local congregations and all settings of the church respond to God’s commandments to do justice, seek peace, and effect change for a better world. The work of JWM is guided by the pronouncements and resolutions approved by the UCC at General Synod.



LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

LCM supports local congregations in their concerns about growth, finances, liturgy, and education; supports ordained and lay ministers in their vocations; and manages the UCC’s publishing houses (The Pilgrim Press, United Church Press) and distribution services (UCC Resources).



WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES

WCM supports congregations and the other settings of the church in developing relationships with a wider church that is global, multiracial and multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all. WCM is in partnership with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Common Global Ministries — the worldwide mission program of both denominations.

